

**Central Coventry Fire District
Board of Directors Special Meeting
June 14, 2011 – 7:00 pm
240 Arnold Road
Changed from June 7, 2011**

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

President: Girard Bouchard Jr.

Vice President: Joe Bonn

**Directors: – Bob Crowe – Linda Giguere – Ronald Gizzarelli -Anna
Mae Lapinski, Armond Niquette**

Treasurer: Tom Lacolle

Tax Collector: Jeanne Graemiger

Clerk: Christine Moniz

Chief : Robert W. Seltzer

Asst. Chief – Scott Tucker

Union President Dave Gorman

Also present was a showing from the Local 3372

Not present: Director Crowe with excuse, Treasurer Tom Lacolle with excuse, Tax Collector Jeanne Graemiger

Meeting came to order at 7:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Director Lapinski to go into Executive Session for discussion on a personnel issue. Motion seconded by Director Giguere. President Bouchard called roll call to go into session Directors Lapinski, Giguere, Niquette, Gizzarelli and President Bouchard all voted aye.

Board moves into executive session at 7:32 p.m.

Board reconvened back into open session at 9:06 p.m.

President Bouchard stated that the Treasurer did not show up tonight and the Tax Collector left so we do not have much information on the finances. The Clerk of the Board handed over the report on collections for the past two weeks that was generated by the Tax Collector.

The President asked the Tax Collector to get updated information on the tax values for the Town. She was unable to provide this due to the fact OPAL was having trouble with the Town System so when that situation is rectified then the Fire District will have the values downloaded.

The Chief went over some key issues with all of the members that were present at the meeting.

The Union agreed in a meeting with the Chief to split the clothing allowance by getting \$300.00 now and then in either August or September, the Chief hopes for August to get the second half of the clothing allowance.

We are now testing the fuel at the Town Garage. We are fueling rescue 7 and watching to see how it goes. With the increasing fuel costs it would be more feasible to fuel with the Town than to go to all the gas stations. The Chief also set guidelines as to where the trucks could fuel up.

The Chief also discussed the possibility to setting a grace period for those taxpayers that have not paid the 2010 quarter taxes. Knowing that in this economy they are not able to pay them on a timely manner. It is not saying that you don't owe the interest it is just giving a later date to pay so that the fees and penalties do not increase making it more difficult to pay your taxes due. We could have the Clerk of the Board work with the Chief to draft a letter to send out to the taxpayers explaining the different ways of paying the taxes due. We could also explain that we do take credit cards.

The Chief also went over the some of the ideas to pay bills and hold

off on the ones that we have a 45 or 60 day grace period and pay the bills accordingly. We are running within budget in the overall picture the only line item we are over budget is the payroll.

The Chief stated that our cash flow problem and our operating fund issue stems from the taxes not getting paid on time and also the fact the state cut the motor vehicle tax by \$225,000.00 and we did not send out a supplemental bill to recoup the money. In the next fiscal year we will need to collect automotive taxes.

The Chief also is looking into increasing the line of credit and he checked with Citizens bank he checked with Centerville bank and he is working on raising the line of credit to get us through the end of the fiscal year and pay it down or off in the next budget. Having the line available for the next fiscal year when collections are slow to come in. He is also looking into tax anticipations notes which are tax free. The Chief reported that he is looking into multiple areas to set up a fund we can fall back on. We can get the line of credit but there is a 30 day process that we need to go through before we can set one up.

We are also anticipating the money from RI Housing but the money won't come in for another 60 days after the process is complete.

The President stated that the Board needs to reconsider re instituting the automobile tax. We, by RI State Law, can collect up to \$225,000.00 per year. When the State cut the Auto payment it was a

huge gap that we had to fill. We are not the only ones having this issue.

The Chief wanted a reminder letter sent out to the tax payers to see if payments would flow in faster. The Chief assigned the Administrative Assistant to take care of this task. The Chief does not know how timely we are as far as getting out notifications that is if any are sent out at all. The Board would also like to include an extension for payment for 2010 taxes to July 30th. In the letter include methods of payment

Motion to get the reminder letter out and to extend the payment date to July 30 by President Bouchard Seconded by V.P. Bonn

All Vote Aye

Director Gizzarelli would like to make a motion to allow the Chief to look into extending the line of credit. The President did not feel this should go to a motion since the Board is not giving the Chief permission to borrow a certain amount he is just looking into other banks to extend the line. The Chief will look into getting terms and increasing the line.

President Gorman brought up some issues that should be addressed concerning the Tax Collections Office. One concern is why they did not want to collect the Auto tax when the Chief of the Department and the President of the Board had made that suggestion last fiscal year

due to the fact we were losing \$225,000.00. He also asked are we sending out the reminder notices in a timely manner. These are issues that will need to be addressed with the Tax Office.

Motion made to adjourn Director Giguere Seconded by Director Lapinski

President Gorman wanted to explain to the Board why the Firefighters were at tonight's meeting. He explained how Director Crowe insisted on this meeting to go over the finances of the District and was not in attendance. Also, not in attendance was the Treasurer and the Tax Collector. They are key people to the issue at hand. President Gorman wanted to thank the Directors that were present and always have been for all the meetings. President feels that the Board has had a lot of discussion about what can be done to reduce the costs but has not seen any action. For example the street lights and tax sale. The Union has made concessions and they will show up at the next Board meeting and to the Annual Meeting. He also noted that a particular Director has not shown up for most of the meetings and now has all the answers to our problems.

Motion on the floor to adjourn the Meeting at 9:33 p.m.

It was seconded by V.P. Bonn

All Vote Aye